



BLUEPRINT FOR COMMUNITY ACTION IN AGING

How does your community measure up on behalf of older people?

All older people should be able to live independent and dignified lives in their own community for as long as possible today and in the future. Every community should have a system of services and opportunities to help older people serve and be served where they live. Older people, their family and friends must be familiar with the system and feel that it responds to them.

Listed below are elements essential to an effective community system for older persons. How does your community measure up?

1. Does your community have a visible point of contact where anyone can go or call for help, information or referral on any aging issue?
2. Does this point of contact lead to a range of options including jobs, volunteer opportunities, suitable housing, quality institutional care, nutrition, transportation, health and other need services
3. Is this range of options accessible to all older persons – the independent, semi-independent and totally dependent, no matter what their income?
4. Are all resources – public, private, voluntary and personal – committed to supporting the system of options for older people?
5. Does collaborative decision making between public, private, voluntary, religious and fraternal organizations and older people exist in your community? Are all those concerned with older people working together in your community?
6. Is there special help or targeted resources for the most vulnerable older people, those most in danger of losing their independence?
7. Is there good referral from agency to agency to assure that information or assistance is received, no matter how or where contact is made in the community?
8. Is the system in your community flexible enough to respond with appropriate individualized assistance especially for the vulnerable older person?
9. Is your response to the aging of our nation tailored to the unique nature of your community?
10. Is there leadership in your community to convene all interested persons, assess needs, design solutions, train personnel, track overall success, stimulate change and plan community response today and in the future?